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informed Acting Assistant Surgeon Turpin that this town was infected eighteen years ago.

Respectfully, yours,

L. E. COFER,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

Report from Vera Cruz.

VERA CRUZ, MEXICO, *September 1, 1899.*

SIR: I have the honor to report the following information for the past week and the month of August.

For the week ended August 31 there were 16 cases and 14 deaths from yellow fever. For the month of August there were 108 cases and 57 deaths. During the past month I have issued certificates to 436 passengers to Havana and New York, and have inspected and issued bills of health to 34 vessels. I have found 9 cases of yellow fever in 5 vessels and removed the sick ashore and had the vessels fumigated to the best of my ability.

According to the reports of the fever that I can secure, the epidemic seems to have assumed a very malignant form, and the percentage of deaths is much higher than at any time of the epidemic. Whether this is due to the cases not being reported (all deaths are reported), or an increase in the virulence of the fever it is hard to determine. The weather continues dry and hot, the town stench is no better, and the general unsanitary condition remains unchanged.

My information from Cordova and Orizaba is secured from English and American passengers from there, and all reports are panicky. * * *

I often hear of the fever in the lower coast towns and all along up to Tampico, and an occasional case there; but as we have troubles of the same kind here it makes very little difference to us, quarantinably speaking, as the lower coast passengers and baggage have all to come through here to the United States and Cuban ports.

The harbor is free from fever, also vessels; but the dredge that I mentioned in a previous report as infected, has furnished one more case that proved fatal last Sunday. When approached about disinfecting, and fumigating the dredge, the reply was What is the use of fumigating the boat when the men are ashore every night? Well, I guess that they will have after a while either a dead or immune crew. Baggage disinfecting is progressing spasmodically under the direction of the local health authorities. A fee is charged for labeling the same as for fumigating. Passengers from the noninfected interior make many kicks about the payment of the fee, and seem to hold me personally responsible for their trouble and expense.

Respectfully, yours,

SAML. H. HODGSON,
Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

RUSSIA.

Precautions against the plague in Russia.

SIR: There seems to be a general belief in this section of Europe that with the advent of the Paris Exposition the bubonic plague will be spread all over the continent of Europe, and may even reach the States of

North and South America. Early during the present year an outbreak of this dreaded disease occurred in the district of Samarcand, in Central Asia. That it was brought from India there can be no doubt. I reported the matter at the time and gave such information as I could obtain, which was far from being either complete or thorough. There was an ominous absence of details and it is pretty generally understood that the measures taken to stamp out and arrest the further progress of the outbreak at Samarcand, were entirely successful. For reasons of public policy, I presume, no published account of the means employed was allowed to appear. The entire village was said to have been afflicted and no recoveries were reported. Troops surrounded the place and no one was allowed to enter or to leave. The village and all that it contained was destroyed by fire.

I can recall a similar instance which occurred while I was in Central Asia in 1892. The place affected was a small Persian village in the province of Khorassan, near the Russian town of Ashabad. I was at that time reliably informed that the disease had been stamped out in the same way as I have described above. The Persian Gulf is now very seriously affected and the Mediterranean Sea also. Ten days' quarantine is enforced here on all vessels from Alexandria, the quarantine station being at the port of Theodosia. A British ship with a general cargo arrived here recently and was given ten days' quarantine at Theodosia, because, on her way out from England the vessel stopped at Alexandria to discharge some cargo at that port. On arrival here, after the ten days at Theodosia had been completed, the local authorities refused to allow the cargo to be discharged unless it was previously disinfected, for the reason that the ship had permitted the laborers at Alexandria to come and go quite freely while they were unloading the cargo for that place. The captain pleaded that he had not only done ten days' quarantine at Theodosia; but had also done several days below Constantinople before he was allowed to pass the Bosphorus and enter the Black Sea. He also reminded the authorities that ten days after the exposure was the extreme limit, after which time the best sanitary authorities agreed that there was no danger to be apprehended. It was of no use, and Petersburg was appealed to, but the response was that the disinfection must take place. It was claimed by the authorities that the ten days' quarantine was probably enough as far as the officers and crew were concerned, but there was danger of infection from the merchandise in the hold of the ship, on account of the laborers having had free access to the same while the ship was discharging at Alexandria.

The Russian Government is taking strong measures to keep the plague out of the ports of the Black Sea, and Lieut. Gen. P. J. Tomich has recently visited every port on the Black Sea to inspect the sanitary arrangements of the ports and cities, in order to acquaint himself with the requirements of the same. General Tomich is a member of the council of the minister of the interior and has been specially commissioned by His Majesty to make this tour of inspection and to cause immediate steps to be taken to remove defects and improve sanitation. The General has not confined his visits to the seaport town only, but has visited many towns inland, particularly such as have connection by water or railway with seaport towns. He not only inspects the public buildings at the places he visits, but all asylums, baths, bakeries, hospitals, boarding houses, tea houses, market places, etc. Orders were given to make prompt improvements in many places which General Tomich takes care to have done, by making a second and

unexpected visit to each place. The General will make Odessa his headquarters until September and will inspect the town thoroughly and also visit numerous other places in the interior, such as Nicolaiev, Cherson, Voznesensk, Ochakov, and other towns. This visit of inspection is a matter of rejoicing for Odessa and other places as well. Our present governor, Count Schouvalov, is an extremely able man and is abreast with the times, still a special commissioner from the Emperor will have a wonderful effect in causing the authorities to move. Count Schouvalov is a reformer who has the interests of Odessa and its inhabitants at heart. * * *

Respectfully, yours,

THOS. H. HEENAN.

United States Consul.

CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES,
ODESSA, RUSSIA, *August 10, 1899.*

SAN SALVADOR.

No yellow fever at Acajutla.

ACAJUTLA, August 17, 1899.

SIR: In accordance with instructions received to send you a bimonthly report as to the existence or nonexistence of yellow fever, I would state that there has not been a case of yellow fever resulting in death either in Sonsonate, Santa Ana, or this port for some time past. There has never been a case in this port.

Respectfully, yours,

FELIX J. CHARLAIX,

Acting Consular Agent.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

SPAIN.

Report from Barcelona.

BARCELONA, August 26, 1899.

SIR: I have the honor to report my arrival here yesterday morning. There are two ways to reach Lisbon from Marseilles, via Bordeaux or Barcelona. I came here because the plague had been reported to be present and I desired to verify the statement and to consult with the consul-general concerning the precautions necessary to be taken. The sanitary authorities state emphatically that no case of plague has so far appeared at Barcelona, and I believe the statement to be true. The consul-general, Mr. Lay, is fully impressed with the necessity for early information should the disease appear, and will do all he can to notify you promptly. Should it appear, and it seems not unreasonable to expect it, a sanitary inspector should be appointed to inspect vessels bound for the United States. There are very few of them, and they are nearly always in ballast, a fortunate circumstance at this time. A number of vessels go direct from this port to Havana. * * * Weekly sanitary statistics can not be obtained here because the authorities decline to furnish them. I inclose extracts from *Diario Mercantil*, showing progress of the plague at date, August 25 and August 26, and an extract showing the special precautions taken by the sanitary officers at Barcelona.

I leave to-night for Lisbon via Madrid.

Respectfully, yours,

FAIRFAX IRWIN,
Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.